ary was given in accordance with *the* provisions of MP lottery (Niyan-tran Tatha Kar) Adhiniyam, 1973.

US offer of housing aid to India

@763. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister ol FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US had offered 35 million as housing aid to India recently; and

(b) if so, what arc the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OP FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): fa) and (b) The Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) hasi been authorised to borrow an amount of $ 35 million from the US Capital Market under the US Housing Guarantee Programme. This amount is in addition to $ 90 million borrowed by HDFC under this programme in the past. An agreement in this regard has been entered into by HDFC with the US Agency for International Development. As in the past the amount of $ 35 million will be utilised by HDFC for its low income shelter activities.

Establishment of an Inter-State Council

764. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: ,

(a) whether some Chief Ministers have suggested to the Central Government for the constitution of an inter-State Council under Article 263 of the Constitution;

(b) whether the Central Government have accepted this recommendation; and

(c) if so, by when the proposed inter-State Council is likely to be established?

©Previously Unstarred Question 470 transferred from the 26th February, 1988.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Sarkaria Commis sion on Centre-State Relations have also made recommendations for Bett ing up of an inter-State Council un der Article 263 of the Constitution. Printed copies of the report of Sar karia Commission on Centre-State Relations have just become available. They have been sent to Central Mi nistries and State Governments. Co pies have also been sent to Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Govern- ment will take final view after Ihe views of State Governments, Members of Parliamtnt and others concerned are available.

Opening of branches of banks in U.P.

765. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Ministe- of FINANCE be pleassd to state:

(a) what is the number of branches of nationalised and other banks opened in U.P. till December 31. 1987;

(b) what was the number of branches other than nationalised banks in U.P. till December 31, 1987;

(c) whether Goysviunent have any proposal to open branches of these two categories of banks during the year 1988-89 in U.P; and

(d) if so, what are the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of September, 1987 (latest available), 7544 branches of commercial banks were functioning *in*